

REFORM OR DISASTER?

Speech at a public meeting
on June 4, 1992 in Moscow

What type of economic reform can be attributed to what is happening to us? It seems to me that what is happening today is not a reform at all, but a catastrophe. We are inundated with all kinds of information. But the simplest, necessary data that every person needs to know is difficult to learn from different sources. However, it seems that the sowing campaign is over and a third of the area is not sown. And an absolutely fantastic action was carried out, like a shot at a working person - raising fuel prices just at the time of the sowing campaign, although it would seem that it would be necessary to lower them ... until he sows. All this threatens us with the loss of about half of the harvest, and this, of course, is a massive famine of such magnitude that no help will help us.

But even if we ignore the specific figures and data and look at the matter purely logically, it is clear that there can be no reform in which the situation in all areas only gets worse during the year. In Germany, what happened after the war was called the German miracle and the miracle was precisely because everything happened almost instantly. The situation began to improve immediately from the beginning of Erhard's reforms. I remember people my parents' age who experienced the same thing. They survived the NEP. They used the same word "miracle". They said that with the complete poverty of war communism, despite the fact that money had already lost all value, suddenly shops began to appear where it was possible to alter an old dress, or buy shoes, or fix old shoes, bakeries appeared ... On the other hand, I remember, I read in Krupskaya's memoirs,

This miracle that happens is the result of any more or less correct reforms. Reform must result in a constant improvement in life, growth in industry, and economic recovery. The economy of our huge country is such a complex system that no research institute is able to calculate its strategy. One can only work out a general idea, the implementation of which must be continuously adjusted by life. This adjustment is the constant improvement of the economy - this is a "feedback". Without it, "reform" turns into the realization of Utopia - so familiar to us.

In our country, the economy is in decline and, therefore, this is not a reform, but a disintegration, a catastrophe. The current reformers have the psychology of revolutionaries - "we will destroy to the ground" ... The Bolsheviks also believed: it is necessary to destroy everything, and then build everything from scratch. Many of the current reformers are descendants of the Bolsheviks, participants in the Civil War, or academics who made their careers studying the economics of "scientific socialism" directly by blood. Of course, in this collapse that we are experiencing, a whole tangle of forces is at work.

First of all, the criminal economy, which is completely out of control, and even Popov says that a bribe is a form of social contact ... But each form of activity develops its own human psychology. A person who is accustomed to bypassing the law, dealing with murderers and racketeers cannot assimilate into a healthy economy, this is not beneficial to him. In addition, the fact that for a year now everything has been constantly deteriorating in our country develops a certain type of people. Zola's novel describes two types of stock market players: short and long. Today's government team are short players. Such people will not be able to act in a positive direction.

The second force is party owners. They strive to transfer their privileges, which they previously possessed in their position, into personal property and become rich entrepreneurs and managers is already quite legitimate. It is no coincidence that the current authorities are basically all the same party functionaries.

The third force is, of course, the West. The West itself is in a catastrophic situation, in a state of ecological crisis. There are various programs, for example, the Club of Rome, which show that Western production is, in principle, suicidal. They cannot stabilize production, establish it at the same level, but it must, on the contrary, be reduced even now. Such an attempt would have caused them a decline in production and a severe crisis. This economic system is built on a race, on an ever-increasing intensification of production, which leads to the depletion of fossils and pollution of the entire Earth, air, etc. The West is facing a severe crisis. But there is our country, which is still very rich in minerals and other energy resources. And if the industrial society is thrown at Russia, it will, of course, postpone the crisis for some time. They kind of sold their souls to the devil, getting involved in a production style that gives them a comfortable life, but for which in the end they will have to pay. But the end can be postponed. And this is a colossal incentive for them.

And, finally, there is one more factor, a colossal historical constant, a vector of the capture of lands in the East by the West. Western society does not tolerate other types of societies next to it; it tries to impose its own standard everywhere. The Western principle of state expansion is fundamentally different from how Russia expanded. When Russia expanded, it did not destroy the indigenous peoples. In our ancient monument "The Tale of Bygone Years" in the section "Where did the Russian land come from?" In the last century, the number of the indigenous peoples of Siberia increased fourfold, and during about the same time the huge people of the American Indians (more than 1 million) were practically destroyed by the Europeans.

This same force has tried many times to swallow Russia: the Swedes, Napoleon, Hitler. The result was always the same: the West lacks the strength to defeat Russia. Not because it is weaker, but because Russia is capable of making great sacrifices. Today the age-old dream of the West can come true.

The peculiarity of the situation also lies in the fact that the authorities today are acting as they should in a catastrophe regime, although they say they are carrying out reforms. The authorities react with indignation to any opposition, rallies,

demonstrations. If we already use the new jargon, then in the so-called "civilized" countries, demonstrations are a common form of expression of social protest. Yeltsin, his supporters stick labels like "red-brown", that is, they conjure up the image of a fascist, construct the image of the enemy. I was amazed when I read Popov's statement in one newspaper that in case of mass discontent, troops, aviation, and artillery could be used. At first I did not believe it and through the newspaper I found a journalist who played me a tape recording. The confrontational nature of the authorities shows

But the catastrophe also has a spiritual character, aimed at changing the psychological structure of the people. The Western order is based on the idea of tough competition, competition is the examiner. There is an idea of justice in Russia. Even the Bolshevik authorities understood this psychology. She assured us that we have a just society. Now there is massive pressure to convince us that justice is an outdated concept. Suppression of a stable psychological factor is a very scary phenomenon. In a sense, genocide, since it is about the destruction of a people as a people. That is, some part of the population will remain, but it will not be the people who created our culture, the state.

There are two types of thinking. In the minds of the Russian people, wealth is not evil in itself, but represents a rather dangerous state in which a person must always be on the alert - it is always more difficult for a rich person to keep his soul. This is a traditional morality based on Orthodoxy.

The Western concept of competition was influenced by Protestantism and, in particular, Calvinism. God predestinated some of the people to be elected, and some to destruction. This happened before the creation of the world, and no one can change this. But man can know that he is chosen by the fact that he is an effective instrument of God; that is, if he is successful in the business he is engaged in, then this means that he is originally chosen and predetermined for the salvation of the soul.

And when in our impoverished country, a country where old women and shops are poor, where prices are surreal, we see receptions, presentations, chic outfits on television, we are thus accustomed to - this is right, these are the new owners, there is nothing to grumble about, you need get used to it. This contradicts the psychology of the Russian person, not only Russian, but also, in a broad sense, Russian. Changing us, our way of life cannot be painless - these will be people with a destroyed psyche. This is the sinking of the people to the bottom, and maybe extinction.

As a result, I may be asked: "Well, we don't need reforms?" But we do not have reforms, we have a disaster. And this catastrophe must be stopped, not continued.

Only reforms with feedback, with understanding among the people, each step of which leads to improvement, can go. Of course, stopping the catastrophe will be accompanied by some urgent measures of the most primitive nature. Distribution by cards does not mean, say, giving up private property. It is necessary to consider ways of introducing

cards, provide shelters, since there will be many homeless people, and the like. The worst problem will be hunger and the fuel crisis.

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